

THE LIVERPOOL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL JOURNAL

ITS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BY

THOMAS H. BICKERTON



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FOR a considerable time past it has been apparent that all has not been well with the Journal, and serious uneasiness has naturally arisen as to its future. When the Journal accounts were presented at the annual meeting, a promise was made that an opportunity for discussing them should be given. Hence the present meeting.

The Journal is out of favour ; its subscription list is becoming smaller ; the drain on the Institution resources cannot continue. Nothing I could say could well hasten its dissolution, while the hearing you may give may be the means of reviving its popularity.

With your indulgence—which I fear, however, will entail a serious demand on your patience—I will, as briefly as the case will allow, state the salient facts—so far as I have been able to gather them—in the history of the Journal, past and present, in the hope that a review of them may enable us to form a better opinion as to its future possibilities. (Appendix I.)

At the beginning of the year 1832, the “Liverpool Medical Library” had been in existence for more than half a century ;

but, so far as is known, it had not exerted any influence on the medical profession, or on the public, nor, so far as is known, had there been any printed record of its work in existence. But on April 9th, 1832, there appears in the minute-book of the Liverpool Medical Library the following entry: "Dr Lane proposed by Dr Williams"; and again on May 10th: "Dr Lane duly elected."¹

The election of this gentleman was destined to play an important part in the advancement of medical science in Liverpool, for nine months later, namely on January 1st, 1833, there appeared the first Liverpool medical journal. It contained forty-eight pages, and was styled *The Liverpool Medical Gazette, or Monthly Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences*. The Journal consisted of original articles, clinical cases, reviews and notices of books, medical intelligence, and correspondence. For this interesting and valuable publication Dr Lane was entirely responsible. The position which he occupied in the medical world is abundantly shown on the title-page of the *Gazette*.

But his qualifications to carry out his self-imposed task were by no means completely summarised in this list of his professional titles. It would have been impossible to have found a man better qualified to carry out this work. With medical skill and experience he combined an absorbing industry, which was thoroughly exemplified in the pages of the Journal. But these pages pay a still higher tribute to the worth of Dr Lane, for they breathe a literary ability which commends itself to the lay as well as to the medical reader. His style is reminiscent of that which was best in the essayist days of English literature, and, the subjects apart, one might easily imagine, while perusing the pages of the early Journals, that *The Tatler*, *The Spectator*, or *The Guardian* were engrossing his attention.

Dr Lane recognised that a profession which ministered to the body diseased should play an important part in social

¹ January 8th, 1833, elected Member of Committee; January 13th, 1834, elected Treasurer and Secretary.

economics ; and recognising this, and the ability of the man, it is an unpleasant subject of contemplation that the Journal should have appealed to so comparatively limited an audience, while London medical contemporaries of lesser merit were destined to achieve success without maintaining a hand-to-mouth existence. Possibly it was the glamour of the metropolis, and the antiquated notion that little good could come out of the provinces, which accounted for the relative ill-success of the *Liverpool Medical Gazette* in comparison with the *Lancet*, of which the first number was issued on Sunday, October 5th, 1823, and the *London Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, which preceded it by three years. Certainly it was not due to any lack of energy or ability, literary or otherwise, on the part of Dr Lane, that the Journal did not enjoy a national patronage. Perhaps this gifted editor and writer would have been better advised had he steered his literary bark clear of the shoals of medical politics. But if this constituted an error in policy, it was more than atoned for by the high literary excellence of Dr Lane's nuptial offspring.

When he presented the *Gazette* to the Liverpool faculty as a friendly medium of professional and scientific intercourse, he committed it to the hands of his brethren in the fullest consciousness that upon their exertions its continuance must depend. He alluded to the gloomy anticipations of those who regarded the medical atmosphere of Liverpool as uncongenial, either in consequence of its not yielding subjects enough or of its not affording ability sufficient to prepare the matter for the maintenance of a medical periodical. He doubted the justice of such conclusion—believing that in a commercial community of 200,000 people (for this was the population of Liverpool in 1833), having an infirmary, fever hospital, lunatic asylum, workhouse, two dispensaries, two eye infirmaries, besides other charitable institutions, there must be an abundance of material which, properly appreciated, might be converted to the support of a Journal, and to the advancement of medical science.

As to the professional inability of the faculty, he pointed out that in bygone days the name of Liverpool had been associated with men, the beneficial results of whose labours for the promotion of the healing art had been felt and gratefully acknowledged in every part of the civilised globe, while the names of some Liverpool practitioners of that day had been chronicled through the farthest space that printing could convey them.

Finally, he believed that if honesty of purpose and sincerity of intention, if industrious application, if upholding the honour, the integrity, and dignity of the medical profession would gain support, he felt assured of obtaining the liberal aid of his brethren. How the Journal was received must be a matter of conjecture. Two facts, however, we do know: first, that he was at once informed that he must not expect valuable papers, because they "would not be seen in his *Gazette*, or only by a few"; second, that on the 10th day of January 1833, a week after the issue of the first number, a meeting took place, at which about forty medical men were present, to determine upon the formation of a Medical Society in Liverpool. Dr Rutter occupied the chair, and it was resolved "that a Medical Society be formed consisting of the gentlemen who have already signified their assent to the measure by subscribing their names to it."

Was the formation of the Medical Society a direct result of the publication of the *Medical Gazette*? It does not appear to me to be an extravagant inference. The fact that Dr Lane intended publishing a medical journal must have been known long before, and his strong views on the value of co-operation must also have been known. That he was keenly interested in the promotion of the Medical Society is shown by the fact that at the original meeting—January 10th, 1833—the Laws which were adopted as the Laws of the Society were those drawn up by a number of gentlemen of whom Dr Lane was one. I am, I think, justified in coming to the conclusion that the establishment of the Medical Society, of which this Institution

is the direct descendant, was mainly, if not entirely, the result of the publication of a medical journal.

Dr Lane was no doubt an able and influential man, but it is hardly likely that a man who had only been a member of the Medical Library for some nine months could have taken the prominent position he did, but for the influence which his courage and ability in establishing a medical paper gave him.

At the first meeting of the constituted Medical Society—January 23rd, 1833—he was elected on the committee by ballot, and at the first annual meeting—October 2nd, 1833—he was elected one of the four Presidents of the Society.

The *Medical Gazette* was published monthly during the year, and forms a highly interesting volume, which would well repay perusal even to-day.

In the following year—1834—the *Gazette* appeared under a new title, *The Monthly Archives of the Medical Sciences*; and whereas in the previous year each monthly part consisted of forty-eight pages, each part now consisted of double that number, viz. ninety-six, and each part was definitely divided into four sections:

1. Original contributions.
2. Reviews and notices of books.
3. Abstracts of foreign and domestic medical literature.
4. Medical politics and intelligence.

The publication was excellent, but five parts only are to be found in the library, viz. those of January, February, March, April, and May; and as at the end of the May number there is a complete index, entitled Index to Vol. I., it looks as if no further part was issued. There is no intimation of an intended cessation of publication, but if there had been others, surely our library shelves would contain them.

Probable Cause of Cessation.—Part 1 of the *Gazette* appeared in January 1833, and in the fifth or May number there appeared a letter signed "Surgeon," which began as follows:—

"Sir,—The zeal which prompted you to undertake and the spirit with which you have commenced your editorial labours

merit the warmest thanks and support of all who are anxious for the advancement of their profession. A medical journal must effect great good in the town; besides the professional knowledge it will convey, it will be the means of correcting many local abuses which have for a long time existed owing to a want of a proper medium through which they might be exposed; for though I should be sorry to see your columns very frequently occupied with the detail of grievances to the exclusion of other better matter, I yet hope you will occasionally find room for the insertion of such as affect the community."

It is highly probable that this letter supplies the solution to the disappearance of the *Archives*. After a careful perusal of the two volumes published,¹ I personally have no doubt. The outspoken and reforming character of the editor, which showed itself in fearless criticism, was probably too much for those of the older school. Medical men are not easily open to conviction. There is even in these days a strong leaven of conservatism in their nature; and while they were no doubt delighted to have so able a man to voice their views, they do not appear to have seen their way to encourage his. For example, Dr Lane was strongly in favour of the repeal of the law, then in force, which prevented gentlemen who had passed their examinations in Scotland from practising in England; but when he wished to bring the subject before the Medical Society—April 3rd, 1833—the heads of the profession thought otherwise. It may be open to question whether in this they did not display the shrewder sense. Certainly, our friends from across the border have neither slumbered nor slept since the restriction was removed; and it is a matter of grave satisfaction to us that our new editor is a Scotsman. It is a great thing to be clever, but it is open to question whether Dr Lane's plan of devoting two or three pages each month to advocating reforms, regardless of long-established custom and vested interest, showed great tact. While every medical man

¹ *Liverpool Medical Gazette*, vol. i., 1833; *Monthly Archives of the Medical Sciences*, vol. i., 1834.

approves of reform—in theory—it must have been a peculiar thrill of joy which passed through the holder of a hospital appointment for life—then the common plan—to read that a shorter period of service would find more acceptance in the eyes of those not so happily placed; while to be told that indolence and indifference, intrigue and favouritism were the necessary adjuncts to such a system, was to arouse the hostility of gentlemen whose training and habit of thought rendered them peculiarly intolerant of interference. However true the statements might have been, and no doubt were, their publication was unwise, and had the natural effect of alienating sympathy both from Dr Lane and the *Gazette*. (Appendix II.)

For the next twenty-three years medical Liverpool was journal-less, but in 1857 there appeared *The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*. No name is attached to it, nor is the date of publication indicated; neither have I succeeded in obtaining authentic information as to the promoters or editors. I have been told that those responsible for it were Drs Inman, Fletcher, Grimsdale, Nevins, and Mr E. R. Bickersteth, and that they felt that, with the large amount of material available, it was a reflection on the local professional talent that the members of the medical profession in Liverpool should take their surgery and medicine from journals, however eminent, such as the Edinburgh and others.

The Journal appeared with the following introduction:—

“The conductors of *The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal* think it desirable to preface their first number with a brief statement of the motives which have actuated them, and the objects they seek in its establishment.

“In the present state of things, there cannot fail to be many valuable facts and observations unrecorded, and much medical ability lying dormant, which it will be for the interests of science to awaken; and it is believed that the establishment of a Journal, taking its name from, and having its management in, Liverpool, will incite to literary exertion many both here

and elsewhere, whose opportunities and abilities well qualify them for the task, but who hitherto have lacked the initiatory stimulus.

“In a town possessing, as Liverpool does, hospital accommodation for upwards of 1400 patients, large and flourishing dispensaries, a medical school, and a population which includes 200 medical practitioners, and standing in a district populous and increasing beyond all precedent, neither the material nor the effort should be wanting for the support of a Journal seeking to be the representative of this vast area of medical observation.

“To conduct this Journal as a purely scientific record of medicine and the collateral sciences, will be the earnest endeavour of its management, and to this end, medical politics, and all merely personal matter, will be carefully excluded; the conductors pledging themselves, in accordance with the motto they have chosen—‘Non quo sed quomodo’—to exercise a strict impartiality in the selection of materials for insertion.”

The scheme of the Journal consisted in original articles and the relation of clinical cases, but in Parts 3, 4, and 5 a section on reviews and notices of books appeared. In Part 1, four pages—out of 146—were reserved for an “Abstract of the Proceedings of the Liverpool Medical Society,” while in the four succeeding parts the number of pages given respectively to these Proceedings were 16, 2, 10, 10.

Five parts in all appeared—two in 1857, two in 1858, one in 1859; and the disappearance of this Journal was even more sudden than that of the pioneer *Gazette* had been, for whereas an index was compiled in that case, no index is to be found for the last three parts of the *Medico-Chirurgical Journal*. Neither the names nor number of subscribers to this Journal can be ascertained. The selection of the motto is credited to Dr Inman.

For the second time the medical literary lamp went out, nor was it again lit until after the lapse of eight years, when, edited by Dr Frederick T. Roberts and Reginald Harrison,

The Liverpool Medical and Surgical Reports made an appearance—October 1867—prefaced by a subscription list of 189 names, and the following announcement:—

“ This volume has been undertaken with the object of presenting to the Profession a series of articles of a practical nature, founded, for the most part, on the experience that is afforded by the public medical and surgical charities of Liverpool, which, in size and importance, are well proportioned to a town containing upwards of half a million inhabitants.

“ This, the first annual number, embraces contributions from medical officers connected with the Royal Infirmary and its School of Medicine, the Northern, Eye, and Fever Hospitals, and the Ladies’ Charity; but it is hoped that future volumes will be further enriched by others having similar fields for observation and research.

“ All the papers have been corrected for the press by their respective authors, a task which has materially lightened the editorial duties.

“ The great success that has attended the publication of Reports in connection with some of the London hospitals, induces us to hope that these endeavours to promote and foster clinical inquiry will not be unappreciated by our professional brethren.

THE EDITORS.

“ LIVERPOOL, October 1867.”

This venture, well printed in large type on good paper, differed from its predecessor in that only one part appeared each year—October. It comprised original articles, clinical cases, and hospital operative statistics, but did not include reviews of books. No abstract of the Medical Institution Proceedings appeared until the third volume—1869,—when a full abstract also appeared of the Proceedings of the Liverpool Northern Medical Society; and excellent details of the Proceedings of both Societies also appeared in vols. iv. and v. (1870, 1871).

Dr Frederick Roberts leaving for London, Dr P. M. Braide-wood joined Mr Reginald Harrison in editing vols. iv. and v.

The Reports well repay perusal, and, judging by the increase in the number of subscribers, must have been greatly appreciated.

Year.	Vol.	Number of Subscribers.
1867	i.	189
1868	ii.	227
1869	iii.	265
1870	iv.	309
1871	v.	308

The one serious drawback is the total absence of an index. With the issue of vol. v.—1871—the *Liverpool Medical and Surgical Reports* came to an end without notice. This may have been due to some scheme of amalgamation being in the air; for, stimulated probably by the example and success of the Liverpool Reports, there appeared in 1870, in the sister town of Manchester, *The Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports*, edited by S. Messenger Bradley and Walter Whitehead. That they were the first published in that town is learned from the preface to vol. i., which runs as follows:—

“If a medical Murray were to describe Manchester, he would probably do so somewhat in the following manner:

“Manchester is a great manufacturing city surrounded by numerous towns and townlets, having altogether a population of over two millions. The medical charities of this important district number not less than fifty. Many industries are represented, and, as many of the densely populated parts of the town are pre-eminently unhealthy, all forms of “trade disease” are met with here.

“Machinery in unexampled abundance is in action on every side, producing accidents of endless variety in rich profusion.

“Yet, with all these opportunities, Manchester, as a great centre for observation, has hitherto been silent, as though she were not, in the world of medical literature.”

“This, then, is our *raison d'être*, this our hope, to remove the slur of professional apathy from the fair fame of our city, and to endow her with a voice with which she may make herself heard and respected in the land.”

Yearly volumes were published in 1870 and in 1871, were well supported, are conspicuous by a total absence of index, and, like the Liverpool Reports, ceased without notice in 1871.

Year.	Vol.	Number of Subscribers.
1870	i.	184
1871	ii.	231

Neither city appears to have made any issue in 1872, but in 1873 appeared *The Liverpool and Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports*, with the following announcement:—

“ After a separate and successful career, the two medical journals of Lancashire have been amalgamated for the purpose of rendering them more thoroughly reflective of the Medicine and Surgery of the North of England, and are now issued in a conjoint form, under the title of *The Liverpool and Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports*.

“ Already we number among present and promised contributors the names of our foremost men in Medicine and Surgery. It will be our ambition to utilise, more and more, the vast and various masses of scientific material which the numerous and splendid medical charities of the northern counties contain, and thus to render our Journal in every way worthy of the intelligence and progress of the age.

“ THE EDITORS.”

The Reports consisted of original articles, clinical cases, and hospital operative statistics. For the first three years they were edited by S. Messenger Bradley and Walter Whitehead (Manchester), and P. M. Braidwood and Reginald Harrison (Liverpool); for the last three by John Wallace (Liverpool).

Abstracts of the Liverpool Medical Institution Proceedings appear in the last three volumes. Abstracts of the Manchester Medical Society do not appear in any of the volumes. The popularity of the Reports, judging by the subscription list, must have been great.

Year.	Vol.	Subscribers.
1873	i.	542
1874	ii.	482
1875	iii.	466
1876	iv.	469
1877	v.	469
1878	vi.	Not known

It is therefore extremely difficult to understand why they were discontinued. No intimation is given either of a dissolution of partnership or of a cessation of publication. As in the case of previous ventures, they simply came to a full stop. The value of these Reports also, as is the case with most of their predecessors, is greatly marred by the absence of an index.

For the fourth time the progress of medicine and surgery in Liverpool remained unchronicled, but the breach in continuity was not a lengthy one, for two years later, viz. on January 26th, 1881, there met at Mr Paul's house, 38 Rodney Street, the following gentlemen:—Messrs Reginald Harrison, Banks, Paul, and Drs Carter, Caton, Wallace, and Barr, and resolved themselves into the Journal Committee. Mr Harrison was elected Chairman, and Dr Barr, Secretary.

The objects in view were:—

1. To publish a Journal.
2. To hold their meetings in the Medical Institution.
3. To obtain full use of the Librarian.
4. To issue the Journal from the Institution.
5. The Journal to consist of:—
 - (a) Transactions of Medical Institution.
 - (b) Original papers.
 - (c) Reviews.

To ensure thoroughness and efficiency, four departments were created:—

1. Transactions Sub-committee—Dr Carter and Mr Paul.
2. Original Papers Sub-committee—Dr Wallace and Mr Banks.

3. Reviews and Notices Sub-committee—Dr Dickinson and Mr Reginald Harrison.
4. Printing and General Management Sub-committee—Dr Caton and Dr Barr.

The *General Instructions* were:—

1. Papers to be short and concise.
2. Authors to have reprints at publisher's price.
3. All illustrations to be paid for by authors.
4. No communication to be sent to printers except through Secretary.
5. First Journal to be of 160 pages—

100	allotted to Transactions.
40	„ original articles.
20	„ reviews.
6. Circulars to be issued with view of obtaining subscribers.

I have given the details of this meeting at some length, because the thoroughness and definiteness as to the means to be employed to ensure success leave nothing to be desired.

The Medical Institution authorities commended and sanctioned the scheme, and guaranteed to meet one-half of any deficit that occurred.

The first care of this Committee was to obtain original papers from outside eminent medical men, in order "to establish on as wide a base as possible, and give the publication more than a mere local reputation."

The second care was to place the Journal on a sound financial basis; and to secure this, a circular, signed by all the members of the Committee, was sent to every medical man—1776 in all—in Lancashire and Cheshire, announcing the intention to publish a journal—a continuation under altered management of the *Liverpool and Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports*—"under the direction of a Committee appointed jointly by the Medical Institution and by an influential meeting of the profession who desired the establish-

ment of a representative medical journal for Liverpool and the district."

In the July of this year—1881—the first number appeared. Owing to the desire of the Committee to make it a valuable publication, it exceeded by eighty pages the limit laid down. That it filled a very distinct want is shown by the fact that it was subscribed to by 388 medical men; and it is interesting, in the light of the present apathy, to record the surprise and regret of the Committee "that seven members of the Institution have ceased to subscribe to the Journal, and seven members and eight associates have not yet become subscribers"; that is to say, out of a membership of 185 only fifteen declined to take the Journal. The total number of copies sold was 403, the price being 3s. 3d.

The year ended with a deficit of £47, 3s., the Institution paying half, and the guarantors paying the other moiety, according to agreement; though, owing to 152 unpaid subscriptions, the real deficit was only £22, 3s.

In the second year—1882—two numbers were published. The number of subscribers on the roll was 316, and though forty-six members and associates did not subscribe, the energy displayed in getting in subscriptions resulted in a credit balance of 8s. 8½d.; while in the third year, in spite of the fact that a copy of the July number was given gratuitously to every member of the B.M.A. visiting Liverpool for the Annual Meeting, the deficit at the end of the year was only £2, 3s. 6d.

From this time the progress of the Journal was steady, and, looked at in the light of recent years, is much to be envied. While a high literary standard was persistently aimed at, so as to commend the Journal to its readers, the Committee of those days were under no delusion as to the one and only way of making the undertaking a success. It was clearly recognised that financial success was essential to future stability. Minute after minute records the anxiety of the Committee for more and more subscribers. Hence no stone was left unturned to secure so desirable an end. While individual members of the

Committee personally canvassed, large numbers of circulars were continually sent out—within ten months of the first meeting 5776 circulars and order forms were issued—and members were reminded annually, when the balance-sheet was published, that only by keeping up and adding to the subscription list could the Journal be kept in a healthy and flourishing condition. Possibly the knowledge that any deficit would have to be made good out of their own pockets was a useful stimulus then, and regrettable by its absence now.

As time went on the conduct of the Journal fell more and more into the hands of the Secretary, Sir James—then Dr—Barr, and the following quotation from the minute-book at a time—December 6th, 1893—when the subscription list showed a marked falling-off, will convey better than any words of mine the value the Committee placed upon the services of its Editor. The quotation is as follows:—“Dr Barr was instructed to adopt whatever means he thought best to carry out these wishes of the Committee.”

How to conduct a medical journal successfully in Liverpool had at last been solved, and this successful régime lasted for seventeen years—until the end of 1897—during which time, under Sir James Barr’s editorship, thirty-three numbers were published regularly every July and January (No. 1, July 1881; No. 33, July 1897). The deficit of £47, 3s. shown in the first balance-sheet had been converted into a credit balance of £120, 13s. 1d., at the time the Journal was appropriated by the Institution—a balance which was increased, when matters had been wound up, to a sum of £162, 11s. 2d.

For seventeen years Liverpool had possessed a medical journal, published regularly, and the cost to the Institution had been £20 a year. But the very success of the Journal appears to have been its undoing. It appeared to be so easy to conduct a journal, that a desire arose in the Council—October 14th, 1896—that the Institution should possess its own Journal, and publish complete Transactions. It is to the credit of the members of the Institution that, when this policy

was first proposed at the annual meeting, 1897, it was referred back. But the Council had been converted to the idea of "thinking Imperially," and on November 4th, 1897, the matter was again brought before a special general meeting, and, against the advice of Sir James Barr, Dr Carter, Mr Paul, Dr Barendt, and others, the Institution compulsorily annexed the Journal.

In the history of every institution occasions occur in which a policy adopted light-heartedly is regretted unreservedly, and if the Journal vote of November 4th, 1897, taking the control of the Journal out of the hands of Sir James Barr and his committee, has not received the condemnation of the Institution, it ought to have done. After a lapse of eight years we can—like our friend Joe—count the cost, and we find that the attempt to make the Journal the register of the work of the Institution has not only involved the Institution in a serious monetary loss, but it has seriously imperilled the very existence of the Journal.

The Financial Position.—The financial history of the Journal from the time it was taken over by the Institution has been one of complete failure. Owing to the irregular publication of the Journal, a simple and at the same time clear and correct statement of accounts is impossible. For example, the last published balance-sheet—December 31st, 1905—shows a credit balance of £54, 17s. 9d. But this is a mere book-keeping balance, made up of (a) £34, 16s. 9d., surplus in 1904–1905, owing to one Journal only being published in each year, and (b) £20, 1s. advanced by Institution. Had the Journal—double number—published in January 1906 been published, as it should have been, in January and July 1905, and the expenses connected with it brought into the accounts for 1905, instead of a credit balance there would have been a debit balance of £56, 7s. 8d. In estimating the cost of the Journal to the Institution, these expenses must be brought into the 1905 accounts; otherwise we should be living in a fool's paradise. Taking the eight years 1898 to 1905 inclusive,

each year's working, exclusive of Institution support, shows a balance on the wrong side (see Appendix III.).

The total revenue was £824, 18s. 5d. The actual expenditure was £1043, 3s. 4d.; but in order to know the full liability incurred, the sum of £91, 4s. 5d.—for printing and posting the double number published in January 1906, but due in January and July 1905—must be added, making a total expenditure of £1134, 7s. 9d., leaving a deficit of £309, 9s. 4d. This divided by 15—the number of Journals published (including that of January 1906)—gives the average cost of each Journal to the Institution of £20, 12s. 7½d. The cost of a single publication under Institution management has been greater than the cost of two Journals under that of Dr Barr; in other words, eight years' publication of the Journal by Dr Barr cost the Institution £160, whereas eight years of Institution management have cost £309, 9s. 4d., or £149, 9s. 4d. in excess. And let it be remembered that only fifteen Journals have been published. Had the full complement of sixteen been published, at least £50 or £60 more (Appendix IV.) would have been required, and the cost of the publication of the Journal, over and above what it would have cost had it been left in the hands of Dr Barr, would have been nearly £200. Fortunately, the whole of this expense, £309, 9s. 4d., has not fallen on the Institution (Appendix V.). Drs Carter and Barr have most generously advanced £107, 19s. 3d. out of their balance, thus relieving the Institution to this extent; but a similar generosity cannot again be expected, nor is it conceivable that the Institution will sanction such expenditure on the Journal in the future.

Before leaving this side of the question, I should like to state, and to state emphatically, that the failure of the Journal to pay its way is in no wise due to want of care or forethought on the part of the gentleman who has, under Institution control, for so long and so ably edited the Journal; and I would take this opportunity of expressing my personal indebtedness to Dr Barendt, an indebtedness which I believe every member of the Institution feels towards him, for the care, industry, and ability

which he has expended upon it. The Journal has been a financial failure because of the policy on which it has been run, viz. that the papers read should appear definitely as part of those Proceedings, and any attempt to run it as a glorified minute-book of the Institution Proceedings will result in similar financial disaster.

Still, I think—and I hope you will agree with me—that it is desirable that Liverpool, the second city of the Empire, should have a medical journal worthy at once of itself and of the prominent part which its citizens identified with the healing art have ever played in the advancement of medical science. And many reasons could be adduced in support of this contention.

Liverpool is the great western gateway of the nation, an avenue through which disease may pass to or from the American Continent. Liverpool has provided illustrious names to the Aesculapian legion of honour, and it is quite in the fitness of things that it should possess a medical journal worthy of the traditions of the city and the medical profession identified with it. Had the Journal been kept up in the past, it is not too much to say the University would have come years ago, and Liverpool would be one of the principal centres of medical education.

Now, what is necessary for the success of a medical journal? There can be no question of the collective ability of the members of the profession in Liverpool and its environs, while their numbers are such that, with united effort, success should be assured. What is wanted is a generous, whole-hearted, loyal spirit of co-operation. If this is aroused, it should be a simple matter to organise and direct it, so that a journal worthy of Liverpool could be produced. But the efforts of editor and of committee cannot ensure success. The cordial sympathy, both mental and pecuniary, of the whole Faculty in and around Liverpool, whether members of the Institution or not, is necessary, as well to provide the necessary funds as matter. The field of appeal, too, should be widened as much as possible, for the

Journal should aim at national importance, rather than merely catering for the requirements of the Medieval Institution. Finally, the Editor should be given a free hand. In conclusion, I would urge that the Journal, which latterly has fallen upon such evil days, is the birthright of the profession, a bequest from its founder, Dr Lane. It was bequeathed to his successors, and though they and we may in the past have shown ourselves unworthy of the trust, that is no reason why we should not make a recovery, and, by resuscitating the former glories of the Journal, produce, in the interest of the profession generally and our city, a publication which is worthy of both.

There is nothing to be gained by a pessimistic view of the situation ; in fact, the recent history of the Medieval Institution proves conclusively that there is an *esprit de corps* which can be appealed to. Certainly it responded nobly to the appeal for funds for the Medieval Institution, when upwards of two thousand pounds was forthcoming in seven months.

The Library is now well housed, as is befitting a library which takes precedence of the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England by twenty years. And yet there is a something wanting, the provision of which would enhance the utility of the Institution and make the medical profession of Liverpool a more homogeneous whole than it is at present. That something is a Journal, able and comprehensive, in which one may find reported the latest developments in medicine and surgery and their collateral branches. Such a publication would prove a power for good not only by disseminating special knowledge, but also by making the medical fraternity of Liverpool a brotherhood indeed.

APPENDIX I.

SUMMARY.

1833. The Liverpool Medical Gazette.

1834. The Monthly Archives of the Medical Sciences.

1857-1859. The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal.

1867-1871. The Liverpool Medical and Surgical Reports.

(1870-1871. The Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports.)

1873-1878. The Liverpool and Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports.

1881-1897. The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal. Edited by Dr Barr.

1898-1906. The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal. Edited by Dr Barendt, under Institution management.

1906- Edited by Dr John Hay.

APPENDIX II.

J. HUNTER LANE, L.R.C.S. Edin., 1829 ; M.D. Edin., 1830 ; F.L.S. ; F.S.S.A. Pres. Roy. Med. Soc. Edin. ; Member of Royal Physical Society, Edin. ; of the Phrenological Society, Edin. ; Hon. Phys. to the Cholera Hosp., Liverpool, 1831-1832 ; Lecturer on Practice of Physic and Forensic Med. in the Liverpool Sch. Med. 1832-1834 ; Phys. to the Lock Hospital of the Inf. Liverpool, 1833 ; Sen. Phys., Lancaster Inf., 1840 ; Lecturer on Chemistry and Forensic Medicine at the Hunterian School of Medicine, Great Windmill Street ; Corresponding Member of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Society.

Edited—

- (1) The Liverpool Medical Gazette.
- (2) The Monthly Archives of the Medical Sciences.
- (3) Translated Tiedemann's Physiology of Man.

Author of—

- (4) A Compendium of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.
- (5) Epitome of Practical Toxicology.
- (6) Epitome of Practical Chemistry.
- (7) Essay on the Animal Secretions.

Died June 23rd, 1853.

Residence : 58 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.

APPENDIX III.

Year.	Journals Published.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898	Jan., July	101 13 2	155 15 6	...	54 2 4
1899	Jan., July	105 3 11	153 19 11	...	48 16 0
1900	Feb., July	114 8 7	148 15 1	...	34 6 6
1901	Mar., Sept.	107 17 4	188 18 4	...	81 1 0
1902	Mar., Oct.	94 0 11	128 1 0	...	34 0 1
1903 ¹	June	125 5 10	126 1 7 ²	...	0 15 9
1904 ³	Jan., June	89 2 3	70 18 0	18 4 3	...
1905	Jan. ⁴	87 6 5	70 13 11	16 12 6	...
		...	91 4 5 ⁵	...	56 7 8
		824 18 5	1134 7 9	34 16 9	309 9 4

¹ One Journal published, but expenditure for two included.

² Includes expenses of number published January 1904.

³ Two Journals published, but expenses of only one—June 1904—included.

⁴ Ought to have been published in July 1904.

⁵ Expenses of double number authorised in 1905, but which did not appear until January 1906.

APPENDIX IV.

Printing of fourteen Journals, 1898–1905 (Nos. 34 to 47 inclusive), not including cost of illustrations or postage, or cost of double number, was £787, 19s. 7d., or £56, 5s. 8d. per Journal. The cost of postage of each issue is about £5.

APPENDIX V.

Deficit of £309, 9s. 4d. defrayed by :—

(1) Institution Funds, paid	£184	2	4
(2) Institution Funds, to pay	16	6	8
(3) Drs Carter and Barr, paid	107	19	3
(4) Dr Wallace, paid	1	1	1
	£309	9	4

